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ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY VANCE WHO IS IN MEXICO, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE TRAGIC DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS WHO WAS, AS YOU SAID, A GOOD FRIEND OF AFGHANISTAN.

AS YOU KNOW, SECRETARY VANCE PERSONALLY APPEALED TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AND URGED YOU NOT TO INTERVENE PRECIPITOUSLY BECAUSE THIS WOULD JEOPARDIZE AMBASSADOR DUBS' LIFE. OUR EMBASSY OFFICERS IN KABUL REPEATEDLY URGED YOUR GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE PATIENCE AND TRY TO OBTAIN THE AMBASSADOR'S RELEASE WITHOUT RECOURSE TO FORCE. YOUR GOVERNMENT DIS-

REGARDED THESE REQUESTS AND POLICE COMMANDANT TAROUN DISREGARDED HIS PROMISE TO OUR DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION THAT HE WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION BEFORE CONSULTING WITH US. I MUST PROTEST IN THE STRONGEST TERMS YOUR GOVERNMENT'S COMPLETE LACK OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION IN DEALING WITH A SITUATION THAT ENDED IN THE DEATH OF OUR AMBASSADOR. SUCH ACTIONS ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT'S STATED DESIRE TO HAVE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, ACTING SECRETARY

END TEXT.

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PAGE 03

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